

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03641 260822Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /076 W
-----066316 260914Z /23

R 260600Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9320
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3641

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGSS: NP, IS, PLO
SUBJ: NEPAL AND ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES

1. FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN AUGUST 19 SAID HMG
VIEWS WITH CONCERN RECENT REPORTS ABOUT THE DECISION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO INTRODUCE CERTAIN
MEASURES IN SOME AREAS OF THE OCCUPIED ARABA TERRITORIES.
SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THESE MEASURES WOULD AMOUNT TO A
CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THOSE AREAS AND OBSTRUCT
MOVEMENT TOWARDS AN OVERALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.
SPOKESMAN APPARENTLY TOOK INITIATIVE IN EXPRESSING
THESE VIEWS TO PRESS AS THERE IS NO INSTITUTIONALIZED
PRESS BRIEFING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ARAN TOLD US HE CALLED ON
FFOREIGN SECRETARY AUG 22. TO DISCUSS THIS STATEMENT.
ARAN SAID FOREIGN SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION CITED GPN
SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION 242 AND ALSO ALLUDED TO U.S.
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SAME DEVELOPMENT. ARAN
EXPRESSED CONCERN TO DCM OVER WHAT HE FEARED
WAS "EROSION" IN GON'S POSITION IN ARAB-ISRAELI MATTERS,
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 03641 260822Z

CITIING INFLUENCE OF PALACE ADVISOR CHIRAN THAPA
(WHOM ARAN CONSIDERS ANTI-ISRAELI), INCREASING
FINANCIAL BLANDISHMENTS FROM ARAB STATES,AND
POLITICAL PRESSURES FROM ARABS ON NEPAL TO IDENTIFY
ITSELF MORE WITH THE POSITION OF THE "NON-ALIGNED"
ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES. ARAN ALSO NOTED THAT
LEADING GOVERNMENT-CONTRLOLLED NEWSPAPERS HAD

CHARACTERIZED AUG 19. STATEMENT AS "MILD" AND HAVE
FOR SOME TIME BEEN CALLING FOR STRONGER GON
IDENTIFICATION WITH ARAB POSITION.

3. COMMENT: ARAB PRESSURES AND BLANDISHMENTS VIS-
A-VIS NEPAL HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY INCREASED, BUT GON
APPEARS TO BE STILL SEEKING TO PURSUE GENERALLY IN-
DEPENDENT STANCE ON ARAB-ISRAELI MATTERS. EMBASSY
SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT GON TURNED DOWN REQUEST
FROM PLO FOR A VISIT TO NEPAL BY PLO DELEGATION WHICH
RECENTLY TOURED ASIA. SOURCES REPORT THAT CHIRAN
THAPA FAVORED ACEDING TO PLO REQUEST, BUT THAT
FOREIGN MINISTRY ARGUED AGAINST, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY
VIEWS WERE ACCEPTED BY KING. THE MAIN ARGUMENTS USED
BY FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAINST THE PROPOSAL WERE THAT
A PLO VISIT AND OPENING OF A PLO OFFICE IN KATHMANDU
WOULD (A) ANNOY THE U.S. AND (B) INCREASE
THE RISK OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY HERE. HOWEVER,
AMBASSADOR ARAN REPORTS THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY
TOLD HIM AUG. 22 THAT PLO REQUEST FOR OPENING
OFFICE HERE WAS "STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION".
ARAN BELIEVES GON DECISION ON PLO OFFICE WILL
BE INFLUENCED BY HOW USG HANDLES SAME
QUESTION.
HECK

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